

has become apparent that we had better do something about it or we could have worse times than this COVID year, every year, 10 or 15 years from now. The dramatic changes that will discombobulate our society and risk our health and our economy, just as COVID did, will happen if we don't do anything. So fighting climate change and making sure America leads the world in emerging industries that deal with climate should be the work of both Democrats and Republicans.

This Congress has proven that we can legislate in a bipartisan way, just most recently on the anti-Asian hate crimes bill and a bipartisan water infrastructure bill. I believe we will continue that trend by taking up and passing a bipartisan competition bill this work period.

So as we head to the White House today, I hope our other leaders are thinking about how we can come together to solve our Nation's problems in a bold and lasting way. One hundred percent of Democrats' focus—and I think I can speak for Speaker PELOSI as well as myself and President Biden—is on delivering help to the American people.

ENDLESS FRONTIER ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, speaking of bipartisan legislation, today the Commerce Committee will begin marking up the Endless Frontier Act, one of the most significant investments in American innovation in generations. The bill will be at the core of comprehensive legislation to address American competitiveness and security in the 21st century.

Once again, for the information of the Senate, it is my intention for the Senate to consider and finish competitive legislation before the end of the month. There have been productive bipartisan talks over the last week to improve the Endless Frontier Act.

This is an issue I have worked on with my friend the Republican Senator from Indiana for the past few years. He has been a great help, a great partner, and I appreciate his work. And, of course, Senator CANTWELL, our chairman of the Commerce Committee, and Senator WICKER, our ranking member, have come together. And everyone had to give a bit here, there, and everywhere, but I think we have a strong bill that should get strong bipartisan support.

The simple truth is very simple. The Endless Frontier Act is legislation our country desperately needs. For decades after the Second World War, our country led the world in science and technology, from healthcare to computers, from telecommunications to manufacturing, to defense. Our workforce brought these innovations to the global economy, and it produced more than half a century of prosperity.

People in the last 50 years, from 1950 to 2000, thought the future was going to be better even than the present, and it

created the usual American optimism. But things have changed, and one of the things that has changed is years of Federal investment in sciences, and they have exposed long-term weak spots—serious weak spots—in our economic competitiveness. This could hurt us dramatically in the next 50 years.

The longer we put off investing in sciences, the likelier it is that other countries, like China but others too, will overtake America as the global leader in innovation, and that will have profound consequences for our economy, our national security, even the future of human liberty, and it will have a lot to do with whether Americans believe that the future economically will be better for them than the present, which is part of the American hallmark and trademark, our sunny optimism, which we must restore. There has been a sourness in the land lately. It is our mission to restore it.

So to take the initiative back, the Endless Frontier Act provides \$100 billion for basic research through the National Science Foundation, focusing on the critical technologies of tomorrow, where we have to stay the leader: AI, advanced manufacturing, renewable energy, quantum computing, cyber security, 5G, battery storage, and so much more.

This bill will nurture tech labs and tech hubs across the country in places where they are not now. We have to spread the wealth. The clock is ticking on the need to make these critical investments.

The Chinese Communist Party has gone to extraordinary lengths to steal a generation of American intellectual property and cheat their way to innovating and economic growth. We do not, we definitely do not—Democrats, Republicans, liberals, conservatives do not want a future where the Chinese Communist Party dictates the global order and how the world uses 5G, artificial intelligence, quantum computing.

That is why the Endless Frontier Act is resoundingly bipartisan. We already have six cosponsors from each side—six Democrats, six Republicans—because these issues affect the future of our entire country. I greatly look forward to the good work that Chair CANTWELL and the Commerce Committee will do to advance the bill this week.

REPUBLICAN PARTY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on a final topic, I am not in the habit of commenting on the House Republican minority, but today they have reached a new and very dangerous low point. Earlier this morning, the House GOP ousted LIZ CHENEY from the party's leadership. Her crime? Telling the truth—telling the truth that Joe Biden is the legitimate President of the United States and Donald Trump is lying when he says the election is stolen.

Congresswoman CHENEY spoke truth to power, and for that she has been

fired. Make no mistake, the Congresswoman and I disagree on so many policy issues, but we both agree that truth matters. And she, like so many characters in history—I am just thinking now of Sir Thomas More—had the courage to tell the truth and paid a big price for it.

So this is sad—a very dark moment for the Republican Party. Republicans are seeking to perpetuate and act upon the big lie that the election was stolen, simply to placate the most dishonest President in American history. This President lies at will. He doesn't care of the consequences for the future of grand, great, and wonderful democracy. He only cares about himself and feeding his ego, and truth has nothing to do with that. It mattered—what happened matters a great deal, and what the former President is trying to do hurts our country dramatically. The former President's lies, right now, are poisoning our democracy, eroding our faith in government, and exciting a plague—often nasty, sometimes racist—of voter suppression laws.

I had thought that January 6 revealed the devastating consequences of the big lie. I thought that the invasion of our Capitol by an armed mob—a mob that sought to delay the peaceful transfer of power; a mob that I was within 15, 20 feet of at one moment—would demonstrate to all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, both ends of the Capitol, the awful price of Donald Trump's lies. But after a brief and all-too-short period of introspection, it appears that the big lie is no longer on the retreat among Republicans but, instead, is spreading like a cancer.

Far be it for me to tell House Republicans who should lead them, but it is truly a dangerous—dangerous—sign of our times that the price of admission in today's Republican Party is silence in the face of provable lies.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, a one-party takeover of our political system—that is what Senate Democrats brought to the Rules Committee just yesterday, their side's top priority for multiple years now.

The supposed rationales for the bill continue to change. A few years ago, when majorities of Democrats were mistakenly convinced that foreigners had hacked voting machines and tampered with tallies in 2016, this was marketed as an election security bill. But it keeps morphing to suit new headlines. Lately, it has been called a racial justice bill. Some Senators say it is really a response to some recent State-level legislation, even though their bill predates those bills by multiple years.

A partisan power grab in search of a justification—that is what we have here. Voter turnout last November was the highest in decades. African-American turnout was twice as high in Mississippi as it was in Massachusetts. Democrats' hysterical attacks against the new election law in the State of Georgia have been dismantled even by typically left-leaning fact checkers.

There is no crisis. Our Democratic friends just want the power to rewire our democracy on a partisan basis. S. 1 would take the Federal Election Commission—the bipartisan panel that regulates elections and private citizens' speech—and make it a partisan body run by the Democrats.

It would let Washington Democrats act like a nationwide board of elections on steroids, neutering popular things like voter ID and forcing legalized ballot harvesting onto all 50 States. This bill would let bureaucrats snoop around more in free speech; attack citizens' privacy so dramatically that even the liberal ACLU is unhappy; and even send public funds—get this: public funds—directly to politicians.

Republicans put forward amendments to fix those things. If Democrats had wanted real, bipartisan solutions, Republicans were there, right at the table, and ready, but Democrats voted us down. They wouldn't even let us redirect any of that public money to the opioid crisis. They wanted that cash for their own campaigns.

This partisan power grab failed to advance out of committee for the same reason it must never ever become law as currently written. It will shatter public confidence in our democracy if the Democratic Party decides it can rig the rules.

ISRAEL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, now on a different matter, yet again, air raid sirens have been sounding in Israel. Israeli civilians have been huddling in basements, shelters, and hospital stairwells. Hamas rocket attacks are lighting up the skies, hitting buildings, and terrorizing, injuring, and killing innocent people. Of course, Hamas and Palestinian Islamic jihad receive significant support from Iran.

Fortunately, a remarkable percentage of the incoming rockets have been intercepted in midair by Israel's Iron Dome system. Americans should take some pride of our own in defending our friends with these high-tech defenses,

which we have helped Israel bring online and have advanced our own joint missile defense efforts at the same time. Missile defense is expensive but vital. It is yet another reason I am concerned with this administration's intention to underfund defense.

Whatever complaints Palestinians have with Israel's Government, wanton violence against civilians is completely and totally inexcusable. This is barbaric terrorism, not a legitimate protest; nor is it legitimate for Israel's obsessive critics to suggest any equivalency whatsoever between these inexcusable attacks and Israel's measured and quite targeted response against terrorists.

Yesterday here in Washington, street protesters screamed—listen to this—“Israel is a terrorist state.” On the streets of Washington, they screamed: “Israel is a terrorist state.” Some Democratic Members of Congress echoed that rhetoric almost exactly.

Look, the State of Israel has every right of self-defense. Its national security leaders have continued to display restraint and invest so much in precision and avoiding civilian casualties. That has been the approach of the Israeli Government.

Israel must know that their friends and allies here in the United States stand with them as they seek to restore deterrence, that we support their right to peace and security, and that we will not relax our efforts to hold terrorists and terrorists' supporters to account.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Now one final matter, Mr. President. This morning, I will be joining three other congressional leaders to meet with President Biden at the White House. There is certainly no shortage of important business to discuss.

The President campaigned on a promise that his agenda would unite a divided nation. And he inherited a favorable situation. Vaccines were flooding America. Science had proven schools can reopen. Job openings were beginning to pile up.

Republicans sought to continue the 2020 bipartisan streak on COVID relief, but our new President and our Democratic colleagues preferred a one-party approach. They used the end of the pandemic to pass what the President's own staff admitted—admitted—was “the most progressive bill in American history.” Not exactly shopping for consensus.

Republicans were upfront with our concerns. We said these old liberal ideas would slow rehiring, slow down the reopening, and stoke inflation. Of course, just a few minutes ago, the Bureau of Labor Statistics published the most dramatic monthly inflation report in more than a decade. Many of the things American families buy have grown more expensive at a dizzying pace. Last week's incredibly dis-

appointing jobs report showed what happens when Washington taxes working people to pay other people more to stay home.

I am going to discuss these and other concerns with the President today, but I also hope we can begin to come together on pressing issues that should actually unite us.

The last time Congress took comprehensive action on surface transportation infrastructure, 83 Senators signed on. By the way, that bill was produced by Senator Boxer, myself, and Senator INHOFE—a totally bipartisan effort across broad ideological lines. The last time we drilled down on water resources, the margin was 92 to 6. Infrastructure can and should be a bipartisan issue; the same for supporting working families; the same for supporting our national defense.

If the President can remember that he promised to govern for all Americans, not just the far left, if my Democratic friends can remember they have just a 50–50 Senate and a closely divided House—not exactly a sweeping mandate for a socialist agenda—there is much we can deliver together for the country.

I hope today marks the start of a new course correction from this White House and a more successful dialogue across party lines. That is what Americans need, and that is what they deserve.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION TO DISCHARGE—Continued

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the motion to discharge the Brooks-LaSure nomination.

The Senator from Texas is recognized.

MEDICAID

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, more than 4 million Texans, including half of the children in my State, depend on the stability of the State's Medicaid Program to provide healthcare for themselves and their families. Everything from emergency room visits to mental health care, Medicaid funding